

New Zealand Philatelic Federation issued a series of vanity perfins

The use of perfins in New Zealand today is even rarer than in the United States. The last known commercial perfin, the RICO pattern used by the Royal Insurance Company in Christchurch, was discontinued nearly half a century ago.

Until recent years, the collecting of perfins in New Zealand was just about as rare. However, as in the United States, collectors are taking a greater interest in perfins. According to Robert Samuel, the dean of New Zealand perfins collectors, perfins can be found in topical collections, the official perfins of Australia are sky-rocketing in price, and perfins are even receiving awards at national stamp exhibitions.

It was that renewed interest in perfins that led the New Zealand Philatelic Federation to issue several vanity perfins in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

A series of four perfins was used to encourage member clubs to pay their dues to the Federation, another perfin was issued for the Royal 100 National Philatelic Exhibition in 1988, and still another for the World Stamp Exhibition, New Zealand 1990.

All the perfins were the brainchild of Samuel. He and Judith Sidaway (#1246) graciously supplied the information for this article.

The THANK YOU perfins came into existence when the Federation decided to raise its dues. In New Zealand, local stamp clubs join the federation by paying an annual per-member fee. When the Federation raised its dues from NZ\$1 to NZ\$2, there was some concern that some clubs would hesitate to send in the full amount of their dues.

Samuel came up

*With the compliments
of the
New Zealand Philatelic Federation*



with the idea of issuing "thank you cards" to the clubs for distribution to their members. Each club got one card for each \$2 in member dues it paid.

Each "thank you" consisted of a printed card with a THANK YOU perfin attached and cancelled with the Federation rubber stamp. One of the cards is shown here. Additional stamps with the THANK YOU perfin were sold to perfins collectors.

The perfins were made by the British firm of Joseph Sloper. The Federation

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New Zealand Federation's vanity perfin

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provided the stamps. The plan was to perforate most of the stamps from the front, but to perforate a few sheets from the back—recognizing that perfin collectors like to mount perfin face down to show off the pattern more clearly.

Alas, says Samuel, the best plans sometimes don't work out. In addition to being perforated from the front and the back of the stamp, some wound up being double or even triple perforated, some were perforated upside



down, and various other varieties came out of the operation. The first THANK YOU perfin (in 1988) were put into the 1¢ Nephrite stamp (Scott 755) issued in 1983 and reprinted several times. The stamps provided to Sloper were from two different printings, providing even more varieties.

The THANK YOU cards were used for four consecutive years, to cover 1988/89, 1989/90, 1990/91, and 1991/92 dues. It isn't clear why the series was discontinued.

New Zealand

Philatelic Federation Inc

The 1988 National Philatelic Exhibition. The Federation arranged for 20 sheets of the 40¢ Royal Philatelic Society commemorative (Scott 887) and 400 of the \$1 miniature sheet (Scott 889) to be perforated by Sloper. Both the single stamp and the miniature sheet sold quickly and are difficult to find today.

ROYAL
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In 1990, the Federation came up with another perfin, NZ 1990. Four different stamps were so perforated: Scott 971 and 980, both new issues, and two 1940 issues,

Scott 229 and 231, which were still available but no longer valid for postage. All four issues were sold at the exhibition and the profits were used to pay for a Federation reception at the exhibition.

NZ
1990

In 1990, Samuel speculated in an article that the THANK YOU perfin might well catch on with other philatelic—and perhaps commercial—organizations. He foresaw the day when THANK YOU perfin would show up in a variety of languages. So far, his prediction hasn't come true, but the Federation perfin is an interesting chapter in perfin history.